

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lockable container for securing an asset therein, comprising:
a first cover;

a second cover coupled to the first cover, wherein the first and second covers are configured to move between an open position which allows access to the asset, and a closed position which encloses the asset;

a locking mate arrangement operatively coupled to at least one of the first and second covers; and

a locking member, wherein the locking member is configured to move between an unlocked position in which the first and second covers can move to the open position and a locked position which locks the first and second covers in the closed position, and wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in the unlocked position and in the locked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container.

2. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position.

3. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position, and wherein the locking member is configured to be acted upon by an external key arrangement to selectively position the locking member into one of the locked position and the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

4. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the first cover is pivotally coupled to the second cover.

5. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the locking mate arrangement is formed as part of the first and second covers, and wherein the locking member is detachably coupled to the second cover.

6. (Original) The lockable container of claim 5, wherein the locking mate arrangement has at least one tab formed in the first cover and at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover.

7. (Original) The lockable container of claim 6, wherein the at least one tab formed in the first cover and the at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover are in an adjacent relationship when the first and second covers are in the closed position.

8. (Original) The lockable container of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the locking member has an I-beam construction with a recess formed therein.

9. (Original) The lockable container of claim 8, wherein the at least one tab formed in the first cover and the at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover are located in the recess and prevented from separating when the locking member is in the locked position.

10. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls and the second cover has at least one pair of bottom closing walls, and wherein the top and bottom pairs of closing walls are disposed so that each of the respective top and bottom closing walls sits behind the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls when the first cover is closed upon the second cover, thereby forming a double wall so that each of the respective top and bottom closing walls substantially overlaps a major portion of the height of the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls.

11. (Original) The lockable container of claim 10, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

12. (Original) The lockable container of claim 10, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends substantially the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

13. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that meet a backside of the second cover, and wherein the at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

14. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that substantially meet a backside of the second cover, and wherein the at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

15. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position, wherein the locking member is configured to be acted upon by an external key arrangement to selectively position the locking member into one of the locked position and the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement, and wherein the locking mate arrangement is formed as part of the first cover and the locking member is detachably coupled to the second cover.

16. (Original) The lockable container of claim 15, wherein the locking member has at least one tab, and wherein the locking mate arrangement has at least one corresponding loop.

17. (Original) The lockable container of claim 16, wherein the at least one tab is configured to engage the at least one corresponding loop when the locking member is in the locked position.

18. (Original) The lockable container of claim 16, wherein the locking member forms a single molded structure, and wherein the locking member is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic resin polypropylene, ABS, polycarbonate, and any combination thereof.

19. (Original) The lockable container of claim 15, wherein the locking member has at least one engagement structure and the locking mate arrangement has at least one corresponding engagement structure, and wherein the engagement structure of the locking member is configured to engage the corresponding engagement structure of the locking mate arrangement.

20. (Original) The lockable container of claim 19, wherein the locking member has a stopping arrangement which selectively blocks the locking member from moving into the locked and unlocked positions.

21. (Original) The lockable container of claim 20, wherein the at least one engagement structure of the locking member has at least one first magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding first magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement.

22. (Original) The lockable container of claim 21, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient locked position flange biased into a locked state, wherein the container has a corresponding locked position tab, and wherein the locked position flange is configured to selectively engage the corresponding locked position tab to prevent the locking member from sliding into the unlocked position once in the locked position.

23. (Original) The lockable container of claim 22, wherein the resilient locked position flange has at least one second magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the magnetic interaction between the second magnetically attractable portion and the second magnet

arrangement of the external key arrangement causing the resilient locked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement.

24. (Original) The lockable container of claim 21, wherein the first magnetically attractable portion is selected from a group consisting of a steel pin, a metallic pin, a metallic insert, a magnetic insert, and any combination thereof.

25. (Original) The lockable container of claim 23, wherein the second magnetically attractable portion is selected from a group consisting of a steel pin, a metallic pin, a metallic insert, a magnetic insert, and any combination thereof.

26. (Original) The lockable container of claim 21, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient unlocked position flange biased into an unlocked state, wherein the container has a corresponding unlocked position tab, and wherein the unlocked position flange is configured to selectively engage the corresponding unlocked position tab to prevent the locking member from sliding into the locked position once in the unlocked position.

27. (Original) The lockable container of claim 26, wherein the resilient unlocked position flange has at least one third magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding third magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the magnetic interaction between the third magnetically attractable portion and the third magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement causing the resilient unlocked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement.

28. (Original) The lockable container of claim 23, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient unlocked position flange biased into an unlocked state, and wherein the resilient unlocked position flange has at least one third magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with the second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the magnetic interaction between the third magnetically attractable portion and the

second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement causing the resilient unlocked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement.

29. (Original) The lockable container of claim 20, wherein the external key arrangement interacts with the at least one corresponding engagement structure and the at least one stopping arrangement of the locking member to selectively move the locking member into the locked and unlocked positions.

30. (Original) The lockable container of claim 29, wherein the external key arrangement simultaneously interacts with the at least one corresponding engagement structure and the at least one stopping arrangement.

31. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position, and wherein the locking member is configured to be acted upon by an external magnetic key arrangement to selectively position the locking member into one of the locked position and the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

32. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the locking member is not viewable from the outside of the container when the first and second covers are in the closed position.

33. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the container is sized as a standard library case.

34. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the container is constructed of a material selected from a group consisting of a plastic, a metal, a wood, a polymer, a thermoplastic resin, polypropylene, ABS, polycarbonate, and any combination thereof.

35. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second covers has a transparent portion configured to permit a user to view the asset in the container.

36. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second covers has a transparent jacket to display information materials related to the asset to a user.

37. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second covers has a securing mechanism configured to retain the asset within the container.

38. (Original) The lockable container of claim 1, wherein the container has at least one status window, wherein the locking member has an indicator, and wherein the indicator is configured to communicate to a user via the status window the unlocked or locked status of the container in accordance with a position of the locking member.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for securing an asset within a container, comprising:
providing a lockable container having a first cover, a second cover coupled to the first cover, a locking mate arrangement operatively coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, and a locking member, wherein the first and second covers are in a closed position which encloses the asset, and wherein the locking member is in an unlocked position in which the first and second covers can move to an open position and in which the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container; and

moving the locking member from the unlocked position to a locked position to lock the first and second covers in the closed position.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the moving the locking member from the unlocked position to the locked position comprises engaging the locking mate arrangement with the locking member.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the moving the locking member comprises: acting upon the locking member with an external key arrangement to move the locking member into the locked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement; and engaging the locking mate arrangement with the locking member.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the locking mate arrangement is formed as part of the first and second covers, and wherein the locking member is detachably coupled to the second cover.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the locking mate arrangement has at least one tab formed in the first cover and at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the at least one tab formed in the first cover and the at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover are in an adjacent relationship when the first and second covers are in the closed position.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a portion of the locking member has an I-beam construction with a recess formed therein.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the at least one tab formed in the first cover and the at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover are located in the recess and prevented from separating when the locking member is in the locked position.

47. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls and the second cover has at least one pair of bottom closing walls, and wherein the top and bottom pairs of closing walls are disposed so that each of the respective top and bottom closing walls sits behind the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls when the first cover is closed upon the second cover, thereby forming a double wall so that each of the respective top and bottom closing walls substantially overlaps a major portion of the height of the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

49. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends substantially the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

50. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that meet a backside of the second cover, and wherein the at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

51. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that substantially meet a backside of the second cover, and wherein the at least one pair of top closing walls meeting the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

52. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the locking mate arrangement is formed as part of the first cover and the locking member is detachably coupled to the second cover, and wherein the moving the locking member comprises:

acting upon the locking member with an external key arrangement to move the locking member into the locked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement; and engaging the locking mate arrangement with the locking member.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the locking member has at least one tab, and wherein the locking mate arrangement has at least one corresponding loop.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the moving the locking member from the unlocked position to the locked position further comprises engaging the at least one loop of the locking member with the corresponding at least one tab of the locking mate arrangement.

55. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the locking member has at least one engagement structure and the locking mate arrangement has at least one corresponding engagement structure, and wherein the moving the locking member from the unlocked position to the locked position further comprises engaging the corresponding engagement structure of the locking mate arrangement with the engagement structure of the locking member.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the locking member has a stopping arrangement which selectivity blocks the locking member from moving into the locked and unlocked positions.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the at least one engagement structure of the locking member has at least one first magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding first magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient locked position flange biased into a locked state, wherein the container has a corresponding locked position tab, the method further comprising engaging the locked position tab with the corresponding locked position flange to prevent the locking member from sliding into the unlocked position once in the locked position.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the resilient locked position flange has at least one second magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the method further comprising causing the resilient locked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement due to the magnetic interaction between the second magnetically attractable portion and the second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement.

60. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the moving the locking member comprises engaging the at least one corresponding engagement structure and the at least one stopping arrangement with the external key arrangement to move the locking member into the locked position.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the moving the locking member further comprises simultaneously engaging the at least one corresponding engagement structure and the at least one stopping arrangement with the external key arrangement.

62. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the moving the locking member comprises: acting upon the locking member with an external magnetic key arrangement to position the locking member into the locked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement; and engaging the locking mate arrangement with the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position.

63. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the locking member is not viewable from the outside of the container when the first and second covers are in the closed position.

64. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein at least one of the first and second covers has a securing mechanism configured to retain the asset within the container.

65. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the container has at least one status window, wherein the locking member has an indicator, the method further comprising: communicating to a user with the indicator via the status window the unlocked or locked status of the container in accordance with the position of the locking member.

66. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing an asset from within a container, comprising:

providing a lockable container having a first cover, a second cover coupled to the first cover, a locking mate arrangement operatively coupled to at least one of the first and second

covers, and a locking member, wherein the first and second covers are in a closed position which encloses the asset, and wherein the locking member is in a locked position which locks the first and second covers in the closed position; and

moving the locking member from the locked position to an unlocked position in which the first and second covers can move to an open position, wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in the unlocked position and in the locked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container.

67. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position.

68. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position, and wherein the moving the locking member comprises acting upon the locking member with an external key arrangement to position the locking member into the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

69. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the locking mate arrangement is formed as part of the first and second covers, and wherein the locking member is detachably coupled to the second cover.

70. (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the locking mate arrangement has at least one tab formed in the first cover and at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover.

71. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein the at least one tab formed in the first cover and the at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover are in an adjacent relationship when the first and second covers are in the closed position.

72. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein at least a portion of the locking member has an I-beam construction with a recess formed therein.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein the at least one tab formed in the first cover and the at least one corresponding tab formed in the second cover are located in the recess and prevented from separating when the locking member is in the locked position.

74. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls and the second cover has at least one pair of bottom closing walls, and wherein the top and bottom pairs of closing walls are disposed so that each of the respective top and bottom closing walls sits behind the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls when the first cover is closed upon the second cover, thereby forming a double wall so that each of the respective top and bottom closing walls substantially overlaps a major portion of the height of the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls.

75. (Original) The method of claim 74, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

76. (Original) The method of claim 74, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends substantially the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

77. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that meet a backside of the

second cover, and wherein at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

78. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that substantially meet a backside of the second cover, wherein at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

79. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the locking mate arrangement is formed as part of the first cover and the locking member is detachably coupled to the second cover, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position, and wherein the moving the locking member comprises acting upon the locking member with an external key arrangement to position the locking member into the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

80. (Original) The method of claim 79, wherein the locking member has at least one tab, and wherein the locking mate arrangement has at least one corresponding loop.

81. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the at least one tab is configured to engage the at least one corresponding loop when the locking member is in the locked position.

82. (Original) The method of claim 79, wherein the locking member has at least one engagement structure and the locking mate arrangement has at least one corresponding engagement structure, and wherein the engagement structure of the locking member is configured to engage the corresponding engagement structure of the locking mate arrangement.

83. (Original) The method of claim 82, wherein the locking member has a stopping arrangement which selectively blocks the locking member from moving into the locked and unlocked positions.

84. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein the at least one engagement structure of the locking member has at least one first magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding first magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement.

85. (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient locked position flange biased into a locked state, wherein the container has a corresponding locked position tab, and wherein the locked position flange is configured to selectively engage the corresponding locked position tab to prevent the locking member from sliding into the unlocked position when in the locked position.

86. (Original) The method of claim 85, wherein the resilient locked position flange has at least one second magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the magnetic interaction between the second magnetically attractable portion and the second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement causing the resilient locked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement.

87. (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient unlocked position flange biased into an unlocked state, wherein the container has a corresponding unlocked position tab, the method further comprising:

engaging the corresponding unlocked position tab with the unlocked position flange to prevent the locking member from sliding into the locked position once in the unlocked position.

88. (Original) The method of claim 87, wherein the resilient unlocked position flange has at least one third magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding third magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the magnetic interaction between the third magnetically attractable portion and the third magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement causing the resilient unlocked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement.

89. (Original) The method of claim 86, wherein the stopping arrangement has at least one resilient unlocked position flange biased into an unlocked state, and wherein the resilient unlocked position flange has at least one third magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with the second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement, the magnetic interaction between the third magnetically attractable portion and the second magnet arrangement of the external key arrangement causing the resilient unlocked position flange to bend toward the external key arrangement.

90. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein the moving the locking member further comprises engaging the at least one corresponding engagement structure and the at least one stopping arrangement of the locking member with the external key arrangement to move the locking member into the unlocked position.

91. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the moving the locking member further comprises simultaneously engaging the at least one corresponding engagement structure and the at least one stopping arrangement of the locking member with the external key arrangement.

92. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement when the locking member is in the locked position, and wherein the moving the locking member comprises acting upon locking member with an external magnetic key arrangement to position the locking member into the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

93. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the locking member is not viewable from the outside of the container when the first and second covers are in the closed position.

94. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein at least one of the first and second covers has a securing mechanism configured to retain the asset within the container.

95. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the container has at least one status window, wherein the locking member has an indicator, the method further comprising:

communicating to a user with the indicator via the status window the unlocked or locked status of the container in accordance with the position of the locking member.

96. (Currently Amended) A lockable container for securing an asset, comprising:

a base portion having a locked position receptacle;

a cover pivotally coupled to the base portion to enclose the asset in the container;

a locking mate arrangement coupled to at least one of the cover and the base portion, the locking mate arrangement having at least one tab portion; and

a locking member slideably coupled to at least one of the cover and the base portion, the locking member being arranged entirely within the container such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member from the exterior of the locking container and the locking member and lockable container operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container, and the locking member is configured to detachably couple to the locking mate arrangement to secure the cover to the base portion, thereby retaining the asset within the container, where the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container, the locking member further comprising:

at least one engagement structure configured to engage the at least one tab portion;

at least one first magnetically attractable portion configured to magnetically interact with a corresponding first magnet arrangement of an external key arrangement;

at least one resilient locked position flange biased into a locking state and acted on by the first magnetically attractable portion to be moved out of the locking state, the locked position flange being configured to selectively engage the locked position receptacle to prevent the locking member from sliding into an unlocked position once in a locked position; and

wherein the locking member is configured to be acted upon by the external key arrangement via the magnetic field of the first magnet arrangement to selectively position the locking member into one of the locked position and the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

97. (Withdrawn) A key arrangement for at least one of locking and unlocking a container, comprising:

a receptacle arrangement configured to receive the container, the receptacle arrangement having at least one magnet arrangement configured to at least one of lock and unlock the container;

a processing arrangement;

a lock/unlock detection arrangement configured to detect a locking state of the container and to communicate a signal to the processing arrangement in accordance with the locking state; and

a user interface arrangement in communication with the processing arrangement and configured to communicate the locking state of the container to a user.

98. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, further comprising a mounting plate configured to mount the key arrangement to a counter top.

99. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, further comprising at least one of an AM and RF non-deactivatable security tag configured to be detected by an appropriate detector.

100. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, further comprising at least one RF ID label configured to permit a user to track the whereabouts of the key arrangement.

101. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, further comprising an identification, serialization, and web server with database feature.

102. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 101, wherein the feature includes a bar-code to encode information selected from a group consisting of a serial number, a name of a store, a name of an authorized user, a date the key arrangement was sold, a date the key arrangement was leased, and any combination thereof.

103. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, further comprising a benefit denial arrangement configured to render the external key arrangement inoperable if an unauthorized user tampers with the key arrangement.

104. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, wherein the receptacle arrangement is configured to receive the container to lock the container.

105. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, wherein the receptacle arrangement has a stop member configured to selectively prevent operation of the key arrangement.

106. (Withdrawn) The key arrangement of claim 97, wherein the locking state of the container is communicated to the user using an indicator selected from a group consisting of an audible indicator, a visual indicator, a tactile indicator, an optical indicator, and any combination thereof.

107. (Currently Amended) A system for securing and gaining access to an asset, comprising:
a lockable container for securing an asset having a first cover, a second cover pivotally coupled to the first cover to enclose the asset within the container, a locking mate arrangement coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, and a locking member slideably coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, wherein the locking member is configured to detachably couple to the locking mate arrangement to secure the first cover to second cover, thereby retaining the asset item within the container; and

a key arrangement for at least one of locking and unlocking the container, the key arrangement having a receptacle arrangement configured to receive the container, wherein the receptacle arrangement has at least one magnet arrangement configured to at least one of lock and unlock the container;

wherein the locking member is configured to be acted upon by the external key arrangement to selectively position the locking member into one of a locked position and an unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement;

and wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in the unlocked position and the locked position such that the locking member ~~operable to restrict~~

tampering is inaccessible from to an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container.

108. (Currently Amended) A method for securing an asset within a container, comprising:

providing a lockable container having a first cover, a second cover pivotally coupled to the first cover to enclose the asset within the container, a locking mate arrangement coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, and a locking member slideably coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, wherein the locking member is in an unlocked position, and wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container when the locking member is in the unlocked position and in a locked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering inaccessible~~ from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member and the lockable container operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the locking container, and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container;

providing a key arrangement for unlocking the container, the key arrangement having a receptacle arrangement, wherein the receptacle arrangement has at least one magnet arrangement;

positioning the container within the receptacle arrangement;

acting upon the container ~~with~~ using the magnetic field of the at least one magnet arrangement to move the locking member from the unlocked position into ~~[[a]]~~ the locked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement, such that the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement to secure the first cover to the second cover..

109. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to an asset from within a container, comprising:

providing a lockable container having a first cover, a second cover pivotally coupled to the first cover to enclose the asset within the container, a locking mate arrangement coupled to at

least one of the first and second covers, and a locking member slideably coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, wherein

the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in an unlocked position and in a locked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member and the lockable container operable to restrict tempering with the locking member from the exterior of the locking container, and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container;

the locking member engages the locking mate arrangement to secure the first cover to the second cover in a locked position;

providing a key arrangement for unlocking the container, the key arrangement having a receptacle arrangement, wherein the receptacle arrangement has at least one magnet arrangement; positioning the container within the receptacle arrangement;

acting upon the container with a magnetic field of the at least one magnet arrangement to move the locking member from the locked position into the unlocked position with respect to the locking mate arrangement.

110. (Currently Amended) A lockable container for securing an asset, comprising:

a first cover;

a second cover coupled to the first cover, the first and second covers configured to move between an open position which allows access to the asset and a closed position which encloses the asset;

at least one tab portion coupled to the first cover;

at least one corresponding tab portion coupled to the second cover; and

a locking member operatively coupled to at least one of the first and second covers, wherein the locking member has a trap portion and a release portion, wherein the locking member is configured to move between an unlocked position in which the first and second covers can move to the open position and a locked position which locks the container in the closed position, and wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in the

unlocked position and in the unlocked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container.

111. (Original) The container of claim 110, wherein the locking member is configured such that, in the locked position, the at least one tab portion and the at least one corresponding tab portion are located in the trap portion and prevented from separating.

112. (Original) The container of claim 111, wherein the at least one tab portion and the at least one corresponding tab portion face each other in an adjacent relationship when located in the trap portion.

113. (Original) The container of claim 110, wherein the locking member is configured such that, in the unlocked position, the at least one tab portion and the at least one corresponding tab portion are located in the release portion and are allowed to separate.

114. (Original) The container of claim 110, wherein the top cover has at least two tab portions, wherein the bottom cover has at least two corresponding tab portions, and wherein the locking member has at least one pair of trap portions located on opposite sides of the locking member.

115. (Original) The container of claim 114, wherein the container is configured such that, in the locked position, one of the at least two tab portions and one of the at least two corresponding tab portions are located in one of the at least one pair of trap portions in an adjacent relationship, and the other of the at least two tab portions and the other of the at least two corresponding tab portions are located in the other of the at least one pair of trap portions in an adjacent relationship, wherein the at least two tab portions are prevented from separating from the at least two corresponding tab portions.

116. (Original) The container of claim 110, further comprising an electronic security tag, wherein the electronic security tag is situated within the container and is inaccessible when the locking member is in the locked position.

117. (Original) The container of claim 110, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls and the second cover includes at least one pair of bottom closing walls, and wherein the top and bottom pairs of closing walls are disposed so that when the first cover is closed upon the second cover, each of the respective top and bottom closing walls sits behind the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls, thereby forming a double wall, and each of the respective top and bottom closing walls substantially overlaps a major portion of the height of the other of the respective top and bottom closing walls.

118. (Original) The container of claim 117, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of bottom closing walls extends the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

119. (Original) The container of claim 117, wherein each of the at least one pair of top closing walls and each of the at least one pair of the bottom closing walls extends for substantially the entire width of the respective first and second covers.

120. (Original) The container of claim 110, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that meet a backside of the second cover, and wherein the at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

121. (Original) The container of claim 110, wherein the first cover has at least one pair of top closing walls, wherein the second cover has top and bottom edges that substantially meet a backside of the second cover, and wherein the at least one pair of top closing walls meets the second cover at the top and bottom edges to form respective seam portions.

122. (Currently amended) A lockable container for securing an asset therein, comprising:
a receptacle, wherein the receptacle has an open configuration which allows access to the asset and a closed configuration which encloses the asset;
a locking mate arrangement operatively coupled to the receptacle; and
a locking member, wherein
the locking member is configured to move between an unlocked position in which the receptacle is in the open configuration and a locked position which locks the receptacle in the closed configuration, and wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in the unlocked position and in the locked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container and to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container, and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container.

123. (Currently amended) A key arrangement for at least one of locking and unlocking a container, the container having a receptacle, wherein the receptacle has an open configuration which allows access to an asset and a closed configuration which encloses the asset, and the container having a locking member that is configured to move between an unlocked position in which the receptacle is in the open configuration, wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the container in the unlocked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering~~ inaccessible from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container, and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container, and a locked position which locks the receptacle in the closed configuration, wherein the locking member has at least one magnetically attractable portion, the key arrangement comprising:

a channel portion, wherein the channel portion is configured to receive the container; and

at least one magnetic arrangement, wherein the at least one magnetic arrangement is configured to hold the at least one magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the at least one magnetic arrangement while the container slides through the channel, thereby positioning the locking member in at least one of the locked and unlocked positions.

124. (Original) The key arrangement of claim 123, wherein the locking member has first and second magnetically attractable portions, the key arrangement further comprising: first and second magnetic arrangements, wherein the first magnetic arrangement is configured to hold the first magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the first magnetic arrangement, and wherein the second magnetic arrangement is configured to hold the second magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the second magnetic arrangement.

125. (Original) The key arrangement of claim 124, wherein the channel portion comprises a first wall portion and a second wall portion forming the channel therebetween, wherein the first magnetic arrangement is situated within the first wall portion, and wherein the second magnetic arrangement is situated within the second wall portion.

126. (Original) The key arrangement of claim 124, wherein the channel portion comprises a first wall portion and a second wall portion forming the channel therebetween, wherein the channel has a first end and a second end, wherein the first magnetic arrangement is situated within the first wall portion at the first end of the channel, and wherein the second magnetic arrangement is situated within the second wall portion at the second end of the channel.

127. (Currently Amended) A method for at least one of locking and unlocking a container, the container having a receptacle, wherein the receptacle has an open configuration which allows access to an asset and a closed configuration which encloses the asset, and the container having a locking member that is configured to move between an unlocked position in which the receptacle is in the open configuration, wherein the entirety of the locking member is internal to the

container in the unlocked position such that the locking member is ~~operable to restrict tampering inaccessible~~ from an exterior of the lockable container to a physical contact sufficient to slide the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions, whereby the locking member and the lockable container are operable to restrict tampering with the locking member from the exterior of the lockable container, and the locking member is permanently connected to the lockable container, and a locked position which locks the receptacle in the closed configuration, wherein the locking member has at least one magnetically attractable portion, the method comprising:

- providing a key arrangement having a channel portion and at least one magnetic arrangement;

- positioning the container within the channel portion;

- holding the at least one magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the at least one magnetic arrangement; and

- while holding the at least one magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within the magnetic field created by the at least one magnetic arrangement, sliding the container through the channel such that the locking member attains at least one of the locked and unlocked positions.

128. (Original) The method of claim 127, wherein the locking member has first and second magnetically attractable portions, wherein the key arrangement has first and second magnetic arrangements, and wherein the holding the at least one magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the at least one magnetic arrangement further comprises:

- holding the first magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the first magnetic arrangement; and

- holding the second magnetically attractable portion of the locking member within a magnetic field created by the second magnetic arrangement.

129. (Original) The method of claim 128, wherein the channel portion comprises a first wall portion and a second wall portion forming the channel therebetween, wherein the first magnetic

arrangement is situated within the first wall portion, and wherein the second magnetic arrangement is situated within the second wall portion.

130. (Original) The method of claim 128, wherein the channel portion comprises a first wall portion and a second wall portion forming the channel therebetween, wherein the channel has a first end and a second end, wherein the first magnetic arrangement is situated within the first wall portion at the first end of the channel, and wherein the second magnetic arrangement is situated within the second wall portion at the second end of the channel.